

MINUTES
EAGAR & SPRINGERVILLE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING
May 17, 2007
6:00 P.M.

EAGAR COUNCIL PRESENT: Sandra Burk, Mayor
Vicente Ordonez
Kim Holaway
Sue Chacon
James Nelson, Jr.
Byron Smith

EAGAR COUNCIL ABSENT: Gloria Eagar, Vice-Mayor

SPRINGERVILLE COUNCIL PRESENT: Kay Dyson, Mayor
Eric Baca
Pete Hunt
Phelps Wilkins

EAGAR STAFF PRESENT: Bill Greenwood, Town Manager
Bruce Ray, Planning and Zoning Administrator
Rick Pinckard, Finance Administrator
Mike Hogan, Police Chief
Howard Carlson, Fire Chief
Ladonna Tafoya, Events, Recreation, Tourism Director
Eva Wilson, Town Clerk

SPRINGERVILLE STAFF PRESENT: Scott Garms, Town Manager
Val Cordova, Town Clerk
Tom Malone, Public Works Director
Steve West, Police Chief
Larisa Bogardus, Director of Community Development
Sharon Pinckard, Director of Community Services
Karen Asquith, Finance Director
Cal Smith, Assistant Fire Chief

Mayor Sandra Burk called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Mayor Burk led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Kay Dyson offered the invocation. Mayor Burk introduced tonight's facilitator, Kathleen Norton. Ms. Norton said she works for John Hopkins Medical Services in Whiteriver and she lives in Pinetop.

OLD BUSINESS

ITEM #3: OPEN SPACE: Report and update from the Open Space Subcommittee.

Councilor Kim Holaway submitted the Open Space/Trails Committee Report. The Committee has identified property owners along the Little Colorado River and Councilor Vicente Ordonez has helped in their efforts. The identified property owners were invited to an initial meeting on May 3rd where only one invited property owner attended and 11 members of the public.

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The Committee plans to meet individually with the identified property owners to discuss a trail system along the Little Colorado River, and to preserve the open space along the River. There is a need to identify citizens who would be willing to serve on an Open Space/Trails Committee.

Councilor Vicente Ordonez believes the overall goal of the Committee is to create a trail system and to protect the open spaces in the area that make the communities unique and to ensure that they remain as the Towns anticipate growth.

Mayor Kay Dyson said Springerville has met with AZ Game & Fish regarding attaching the trail system from Winema to Becker Lake and that it is in fact part of the AZ Game & Fish 20/12 Plan.

Councilor Kim Holaway stated that National Heritage Areas are a very big concern of the citizens that had attended the public meeting. And the private property owner's concern was litter and disrespect of private property.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #4: SHARED AND COOPERATIVE SERVICES/RESOURCES: Discussion and action regarding the mutual sharing and cooperation of resources and services.

Councilor Vicente Ordonez appreciates the reports from the respective departments that highlight the areas in which they cooperate together. He would like to see staffs take advantage of the opportunities that could be possible if we all think outside the box.

Town Manager Scott Garms would like the Councils to help identify these missed opportunities and to give staff guidance.

Councilor James Nelson would like to see more joint purchasing of specialized equipment that is not necessarily used on a daily basis especially in the police, and fire departments. Councilor Vicente Ordonez added public works could also share in joint purchases.

Councilor Kim Holaway read a staff report from 1951 that in fact showed even back then the Sister Towns were sharing equipment and resources.

Finance Administrator Rick Pinckard stated that the Towns have made some proposals to purchase equipment together but it has yet to be committed to.

Departmental Administrators and Councils from both Towns shared what endeavors they have collaborated on and opportunities they could combine on:

- Fire Department Mass Casualty Trailer and Supplies;
- Police Department writing of Homeland Security Grants;
- Emergency services and public work radios;
- Public Safety firing range;
- GIS Grant;
- The possibility of combining criminal history records in southern Apache County;

- Bringing small businesses to the area;

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- Trail systems;
- Working together on events, tourism and bringing more to the community;
- Parks, recreational opportunities, swimming pool, community center;
- Independent ambulance service;
- Creation of a health care district;
- Funding of the senior center;
- Marketing strategies;

By collaborating together to bring extracurricular activities to their citizens, the Towns save money and make the citizens happy, a win/win situation. Councilor Kim Holaway pointed out that the Towns are duplicating a lot of their work and efforts.

Mayor Sandra Burk expressed the need to let the citizens know that the Towns do work together. Councilor Byron Smith would also like to see this information get out to the citizens. Ladonna Tafoya added that it would be great to have a “student council” mentor program, thus getting young people involved in the affairs of the community.

Director of Community Services Sharon Pinckard reported that more funding will be cut this year and that the Meals on Wheels Program, utility assistance, emergency housing, and employees will be cut back if funding is not provided. She stressed that these are much needed services in the community.

Mayor Kay Dyson asked if the planning and zoning departments were communicating together in the planning of developments, roads, industrial areas. Planning and Zoning Administrator Bruce Ray replied that he was working with Mr. Johnson but since he has left Springerville the communication has wavered. Director of Community Development Larisa Bogardus said that Springerville has referenced and taken into consideration Eagar’s General Plan in creating Springerville’s General Plan.

Mayor Kay Dyson said that Springerville is planning more sponsorship of events now that they have a tourism tax in place. She would like to see a committee appointed for the discussion and planning of a new swimming pool for the two Towns. Town Manager Scott Garms commented that Eagar Events, Recreation, and Tourism Director Ladonna Tafoya was appointed to the Springerville Park Committee. Ms. Tafoya added that it would be great to work in cooperation with Springerville as she has been approached about the Town taking over the Little League Baseball and Little League Basketball programs and one Town cannot do all the recreation for the valley alone; it would also be great to have a community center for all the citizens of the valley.

Councilor Sue Chacon advised the Springerville Council that Eagar does have a Swimming Pool Committee and they meet monthly and she invited one of their council members or an appointee to attend these meetings.

After considerable discussion, the Council’s agreed that they would like to see staff brainstorm and think out of the box on other ways to collaborate; they would like to educate the public of the joint council meetings and the decisions thereof; they would like to further discuss the need for a new swimming pool and/or community center, (include other entities – hospital, Apache County, therapists, schools) and

recreation, events, and tourism. It was asked that the swimming pool be added to the list of Future Agenda Items to be discussed.

ITEM # 5: CONSOLIDATION FEASIBILITY STUDY: Discussion and action regarding a citizen presentation in reference to a proposed RFP for feasibility study for the consolidation of the towns of Eagar and Springerville.

Town Manager Bill Greenwood commented that the members of the Consolidation Study Committee (CSC) could not be available tonight and that their report and proposal is included in the council packets. The CSC's proposal would be for the Towns to contribute to the funding of an outside firm to conduct a feasibility study to ascertain if consolidation is something that would benefit the citizens of Eagar and Springerville. Also reasoning dictates that various town services already exist and an independent study may reveal more areas where this would be beneficial without consolidation.

It would cost the Towns approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 for such a study. After much discussion it was concluded that the Councils are almost evenly split on whether to allow for the funding during a tight budget year and allowing a fresh, professional perspective to perform a feasibility study vs. allowing staff, experienced department heads and knowledge of the area address the questions the CSC has considered. It was also discussed to consider allowing a university class to conduct the feasibility study which would probably save a considerable amount of money and may even be at no charge.

Councilor Kim Holaway reported that the citizen survey that was conducted in Eagar showed that 78% of the respondents approved the consideration of consolidation out of 25% of the Town's citizens. The Eagar and Springerville voters will have the ultimate voice of consolidating the two towns. Both Councils are well aware of the heritage, history, and individuality of both communities; and their citizens that tightly embrace the uniqueness of their Town.

Finance Administrator Rick Pinckard volunteered that in September he and Springerville's Finance Director Karen Asquith can submit a financial report to both Councils to determine whether a feasibility study could be financed for the next fiscal year.

Councilor Sue Chacon asked that Town Managers outline a plan on how to go forward with this proposal and to make the necessary assignments to complete this task. It was asked of the Town Managers to bring this item back at a future joint council meeting.

ITEM #6: JOINT COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS: Discussion and action regarding adding additional agenda topics to the list.

Swimming Pool will be added to the list of Future Agenda Items. Mayor Burk added that the swimming pool will be heavily concentrated on once Ramsey Park Renovation is complete.

ITEM #7: MEETING DATE SELECTION – Discussion and action regarding selecting a date for the next joint council meeting.

A tentative date will be set by the Town Managers for the next joint council meeting to possibly be held in September, 2007.
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ITEM # 8: ADJOURNMENT

The Mayors and Councils thanked Ms. Norton for her time to facilitate the meeting.

Councilor Byron Smith moved to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Councilor Vicente Ordonez seconded; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Kay Dyson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Springerville/Eagar Town Councils in regular session on Thursday May 17, 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 6th Day of June 2007

Town Clerk